

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2005

Present: Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Spring, Wagner.

Absent: Corey (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Judy Horton; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Shirley Sanderson; Helen Granger, The Independent; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Jerry Walden; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to accept the previous regular meeting minutes dated February 23, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Councilperson Sanderson asked why Perrin Construction got involved with the water main break. Mr. Sawyer advised the city does not have the equipment that Perrin Construction has especially working in winter climates and digging through frost lines. He further advised when dealing with OSHA safety issues or when there is an issue where time is of the essence to get water re-established, Perrin Construction is brought in to make things happen. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated February 25, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Jerry Walden introduced himself as the County Commissioner for District 3 that includes the City of Corunna. He offered his assistance to the council and encouraged the city council to call him.

Mr. Sawyer advised the Michigan Economic Development Corporation has given the city a preliminary approval for an additional \$625,000 grant, which will be used to replace the Ferry Street pump station. He further advised there is a flooding problem on Ridgeview Drive and he believes the culvert is clogged because he did not see any water traveling

through it, but there is not a lot the city can do about it. Councilperson Johnson asked if this was at the entrance of the subdivision. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Mehig asked if the sewer jetter could be used to force any debris from it. Mr. Sawyer advised no. The area has a private drain that is not being maintained and there is no drainage district established to clean it. There have been attempts to establish a county drainage district in that area but there have been objections from property owners that do not want a drain assessment. He also advised there is only an 18-inch culvert under the road and it does not take much to clog a culvert that small. A larger culvert would help transmit more water through it and would keep the culvert from clogging but if the size of the culvert is increased and the flow of water is changed and anyone downstream gets flooded out, the city is liable because the drain is not a proper drainage district. Mr. Sawyer informed council the treasurer's computer quit working on Friday and a replacement has been ordered. The city spent two or three hundred dollars two weeks ago to completely wipe down and reformat the hard drive in an attempt to keep the computer alive, which was money wasted.

DISCUSSION ON 2005 COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS AND OPINIONS SURVEY

RESULTS: Joe Sawyer read through and explained the 2005 Community Perceptions and Opinions Survey results with the council. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated Mr. Sawyer should be commended for the work he put into the survey.

DISCUSSION ON WATER SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR APPLEBEES: Mr. Sawyer advised he made a formal request to the City of Owosso to allow the City of Corunna to extend the water main. He had several meetings with the Owosso City Manager this past week and was advised it was unlikely that the City of Owosso would put this item on their agenda tonight because they do not like agenda additions so it would probably be on their next agenda two weeks from now. Mr. Sawyer further advised the indication he has received was that the City of Owosso was looking at this agreement favorably. He is unsure of Applebees extent for fire suppression right now but Capital Consultants is working directly with Applebees' engineers on trying to structure what is wanted or what will be needed. He also advised the City of Corunna is trying to put something in place to create a more comprehensive and long-term solution to the water problems along M-21. Mr. Sawyer stated the City of Owosso has provided him with two sample agreements that they have entered into with retailers within the township. The township will not be involved in this agreement other than being made aware of the terms and language nor will the City of Owosso. The City of Owosso is being asked to allow the City of Corunna to extend the water main and the township will have to give the City of Corunna a right-of-way to run the water main into their jurisdiction, which he does not anticipate any problems with.

CONSIDER WATER SERVICE AND FIRE SUPPRESSION AGREEMENT WITH

APPLEBEES: Mr. Sawyer went over the draft agreement he created by combining the two sample agreements he received from the City of Owosso. For fire suppression, availability of a sprinkler system and fire hydrant is needed and that is why the draft agreement is considered a water service and fire suppression agreement even though there is a joint fire department. He advised an eight-inch extension is required in order to service a fire hydrant and Applebees would be responsible for all construction costs to extend the water system, which is estimated to cost around \$120,000 and includes engineering fees. He further advised the cost to upsize the water main to a 12 or 16 inch will be looked at so there will be adequate flow for expansion. He also advised Applebees would pay 50

percent of the city's millage rate as the cost for the agreement even though the property will be on the township's tax roll. Mr. Sawyer stated he felt the agreement would be acceptable to Applebees and would help out the general fund in the amount of \$5,000 per year. He further stated the City of Owosso doubles the water rate for out of town rates, which Corunna does not have so that would have to be talked about. There would be some negotiations with Applebees because the city will be getting a substantial benefit from the expansion of the water main system. He also stated the agreement was a five-year agreement. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated doing what the city will be doing will open up the door for the M-21 corridor and asked if a five-year agreement would be sufficient for what might happen in the future. Mr. Sawyer advised no and he would be surprised if Applebees would accept a five-year agreement but this has happened with the agreements that the City of Owosso has done. He further advised he would like to see Corunna and Caledonia Charter Township work hand in hand in the agreement with the City of Owosso. He also advised no motion was needed at this time, but he would like to know if the framework makes sense. If this is something the council would like to proceed with, he would send it to Dick Burlingame and Capital Consultants to start tweaking the agreement so it can be brought back to the city council. If there is no interest in providing water to Applebees, then now would be the time to let him know there is no interest. The general consensus of council was to keep going with the agreement.

CONSIDER ENGINEERING PROPOSAL FOR APPLEBEES WATER MAIN EXTENSION:

Mr. Sawyer reviewed the engineering proposal from Capital Consultants and Applebees has been told that although the expense will be theirs, the city is insistent that its engineers will be involved in the entire project. If an agreement is negotiated with Applebees that everyone is agreeable to, the contract with Capital Consultants will be between the city and Capital Consultants and all costs will be passed on to Applebees for reimbursement.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson congratulated Mr. Sawyer on the award he won at the chamber dinner the other night and asked council to give him a standing ovation.

Councilperson Spring stated several people contacted him about how snow is removed on the downtown sidewalks and he informed these people that the business owners are responsible for removing the snow. He further stated he has been told the snow is removed from the sidewalks but when the road gets plowed out, the snow gets pushed back on the sidewalks and the business owners have to take care of the snow again. There is no place to put the snow and people who are trying to get into the downtown businesses are tripping and falling on the sidewalks and this is something that obviously needs to be taken care of. He asked if this was something that the Downtown Development Authority could use some of their money on. Mr. Sawyer stated he would like to see the Downtown Development Authority get more involved with the downtown area and maybe the city should take another look at the ordinance regarding the 24-hour timeline because he thought this timeline was too generous for the downtown property owners. The downtown sidewalks should be cleared that morning and not 24-hours later. Councilperson Spring stated there would be about four or five days out of the year that the Downtown Development Authority would have to pay someone to clear the snow off the sidewalks. Mr. Sawyer advised the Downtown Development Authority could contract with the department of public works but he would work with the merchants on this problem. Merilee Lawson advised she took a walk downtown and checked both sides of the street

and there are a few businesses who do not take care of their sidewalks. Councilperson Spring stated the problem is that the businesses clear their sidewalks and when they think they are all done, the snow gets plowed back on the sidewalk. Mr. Sawyer advised he did not believe that is the problem. Councilperson Wagner stated every homeowner in the city who has a driveway has that same issue. Ms. Lawson advised she found that some of the business people did not clear the snow off the sidewalk to begin with. She felt the Downtown Development Authority is open to taking on some type of role to resolve this issue. Mr. Sawyer advised the ordinance states the sidewalk has to be kept clear five-feet from the building and there is supposed to be an opening at the street. Councilperson Sanderson stated the biggest problem is the crosswalks. Councilperson Mehigh stated the best solution would be for the Downtown Development Authority to contract with the department of public works to clear the area around the gutter so people can get out their cars. Councilperson Spring asked if this was something that he should bring up to the Downtown Development Authority or if this was something that Mr. Sawyer could bring to them. Mr. Sawyer advised he would bring this issue to the Downtown Development Authority. It is important to understand that nothing is happening here any differently than in any other city in Michigan. Councilperson Spring asked when Steve Corey would be back. Mr. Sawyer advised April 1. Councilperson Spring advised the SATA reorganization meeting will be at the end of the month and he has all of the paperwork and is set to go to the meeting.

Councilperson Mehigh thanked Mr. Sawyer and his staff for the enormous amount of work that was done on the survey.

ADJOURN: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:35 p.m.

LARRY RUNYAN, MAYOR PRO-TEM

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK